

surely invite outside investigation or the introduction of federal troops to the city. Consequently, Waddell and his Board of Aldermen met daily to achieve an end to the bloodshed and effect peace in the city.⁷⁷ The minutes of the Board of Aldermen reflect the turmoil only marginally and hint at confusion.⁷⁸

Waddell and his Board of Aldermen met officially for the first time on November

the following day. Because the riot took precedence on the front page, the returns were published only for the congressional election of Bellamy in which he received 289 more votes than Dockery in New Hanover and an overall majority of almost 6,000 votes in the whole of the Sixth District *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 10-11, 1898; *Contested Election Case*, 332-6.

⁷⁷ One of the first actions of Waddell and the Board of Aldermen was to assure both Wilmington residents and outside observers that the new administration would create a peaceful city: "To the good white people of Wilmington: The undersigned, upon whom has been placed a great responsibility by the action of his fellow citizens, takes the method of assuring the good people of this city that all the power with which he is invested will be exerted to preserve order and peace in this community, and that power is amply sufficient for the purpose. All well disposed persons are earnestly requested to co-operate with the municipal authorities in every way possible to secure the permanent establishment of good government. The law will be rigidly enforced and impartially administered to white and black people alike. A. M. Waddell, Mayor." *Evening Dispatch* (Wilmington), November 11, 1898.

⁷⁸ For example, page 15 records the meeting held on the November 10 by Mayor Wright at the home of Alderman Charles Morrell at 12:50 P.M. Clerk William Struthers recorded the actions of Wright's administration to further prohibit alcohol sales even as the riot was underway. On page 16 are the signatures of Democrats who claimed to be sworn in as aldermen and the oath of Waddell as Mayor. The next page has another sworn statement and signature of Waddell as mayor. The signatures on pages 16 and 17 are out of order because the next page, 18, contains the formal minutes of the resignations and replacement elections held at 4 o'clock on the tenth. William Struthers also recorded this information for the transition. "Minutes of the Wilmington Board of Aldermen," November, 1898, State Archives, North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh.

11. Eight aldermen—C. H. Ganzier, Rev. J. W. Kramer, Preston Bridgers, W. H. Sprunt, A. B. Skelding, B. F. King, Charles W. Worth, and H. P. West—were present. Waddell's purpose for the special meeting was to "reorganize the police force and take action in keeping peace." New chief of police Edgar Parmele reported that he had only 9 policemen on duty the night of the riot and 4 the morning of the eleventh in addition to the 200 special policemen that he had sworn in the night before. On the motion of Alderman Worth, the board voted to authorize Waddell to "confer with the military as to police in the city" and instructed him to issue "a proclamation for all good citizens to stay at their homes," offering assurance that the city would be fully policed that night. Waddell's cabinet also accepted the resignations of Alderman C. D. Morrell and Superintendent of Streets L. H. Bryant. By the end of the meeting, "the officers of the military were present and the Mayor stated the object of Alderman Worth's motion and explained at some length as to what he wished done." In response, Col. Walker Taylor spoke to the board and "offered the assistance of the military."⁷⁹

The following day Waddell's cabinet again met and selected 37 men to serve as "temporary policemen" for 30 days. The board also voted to extend the ordinance that closed saloons until November sixteenth. Alderman Keith's resignation was accepted before the group adjourned. Waddell's board did not officially meet again until November fourteenth when J. Allan Taylor and Hugh MacRae were elected Aldermen from the Third Ward. The group adjourned until the fifteenth when Waddell and the aldermen decided on committee

⁷⁹ "Minutes of the Wilmington Board of Aldermen," November, 1898, State Archives, North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh.